

DGC, and the pipelines reached settlement agreements in 1994 that are expressly subject to FERC approval. Again, it is worth mentioning that FERC has already approved one of the four settlement agreements.

The administrative law judge's decision disapproved the remaining settlements negotiated between DGC and three of the four pipelines, and ruled that the pricing formula in the gas purchase agreements—as approved by opinion 119—should no longer be honored. Additionally, the judge's decision put on hold the agreement reached between DGC and DOE, which is contingent on FERC approval of the agreements between DGC and the pipelines. Finally, the decision retroactively imposed a new pricing scheme and ordered refunds that would total approximately \$280 million.

If unchanged, this decision would close the Great Plains Gasification Plant. Mr. President, I believe that result would not serve our national energy interests.

I urge the FERC commissioners to give this matter their most careful consideration, and give great attention to Congress' public policy objective of continued long-term operation of the synfuels project.●

HONORING WALTER WIELOH AND HIS 40 YEARS OF TEACHING AT WEIRTON MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly devoted teacher, mentor, and friend to the youth in my State of West Virginia, Mr. Walter Wieloh.

It is heartening and inspiring, I believe, to learn about the career of Mr. Wieloh, a man who dedicated 40 years of his life to teaching. He has been a member of the faculty at Madonna Catholic High School in Weirton, WV, since 1955, teaching several generations of families in the area.

In December, he was honored at a special event at the high school, and I wanted to add my public congratulations to Mr. Wieloh. His career of service to students and his commitment to education for four decades can be an example to all of us.

Walter Wieloh started his teaching career when Madonna High School opened in 1955, and he has been both educator and friend to generations of high school students. To students, he has always been a presence of wisdom and of guidance, inside the classroom and out. The current principal of Madonna, Mr. Robert J. Gill, recalls fondly his days as a student, and later as a colleague, of Mr. Wieloh. He recognizes him as a force of inspiration to students and an example of professionalism to fellow teachers.

Mr. President, Walter Wieloh should be an inspiration to us as well. In his 40 years of educating the youth of Weirton, WV, he represents many hard-working teachers across the country

who have helped improve the lives and future of the students in their classrooms every year. Encouraging young people to learn, excel, and make the transition to adulthood is a challenge that every high school teacher faces, and Walter Wieloh has been a leader for Weirton Madonna High School. On behalf of every West Virginian, I commend Walter Wieloh. He definitely brings pride to his profession, and our State.●

IN SUPPORT OF CONCILIO CUBANO AND INDEPENDENT CUBAN JOURNALISTS

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, late last year, a broad spectrum of Cuban opposition groups came together in an effort to form Concilio Cubano. Concilio Cubano, or Cuban Council, is a group that seeks to unite an unprecedented number of human rights, professional, political, and other organizations behind a common platform that includes amnesty for political prisoners, free and multiparty elections, and human rights.

The Castro regime's response has been sickeningly familiar. Members of Concilio Cubano have been subjected to lengthy interrogations, violent harassment, and a disinformation campaign.

The Miami Herald in a recent editorial likened Concilio Cubano to Charter 77, the Czech group that bravely opposed the Czech Communist dictatorship. Referring to former dissident, now President, Vaclav Havel, one of the leaders of the group told the Herald, "We have more Havels than they had."

Concilio Cubano plans to meet in late February. In Cuba, that's no simple matter. In the weeks leading up to this meeting, supporters of freedom, democracy, and human rights in Cuba must watch closely and speak out against any continued attempts to intimidate these democratic activists.

Also recently, the Cuban regime has stepped up persecution of journalists affiliated with independent news organizations. The campaign of harassment has included detentions and interrogations.

To my knowledge, the Clinton administration has been silent on the recent harassment of Concilio Cubano's members and independent journalists. The U.S. press has been fairly silent as well. I urge the administration to denounce these violations of the right of free expression and free association and strongly align itself with the supporters of democracy and freedom in Cuba. And I call upon the American press to report on the persecution of their fellow journalists and on Cuba's newest, broadest coalition of democratic activists.

Cuba's people have been subjected to virtually every form of subjugation. Their mildest form of opposition is met with repression. The United States and the American people are their closest friends. I call upon my colleagues in

the Congress, and my fellow citizens to support the Cuban peoples efforts to exercise their inherent rights of free speech and association. The Cuban people have been resisting the Castro dictatorship for over 30 years. For as long as it takes, we must stand alongside them and let them know we support their struggle.●

TRIBUTE TO CYPRESS GARDENS DIAMOND JUBILEE DAY

● Mr. GRAHAM. As we arrived at the Capitol today, we noticed the remaining ice and snow from the blizzard earlier this month.

My thoughts traveled to sunny Florida, America's top tourist destination. Our State is blessed with clean waters, exquisite beaches, subtropical climate, and some of the most beautiful freshwater lakes in the world.

Mr. President, some six decades ago, a visionary named Dick Pope, Sr. looked out upon the blessed beauty of central Florida and created what became Cypress Gardens.

This world renowned attraction, Cypress Gardens, celebrates its diamond jubilee on February 1, 1996. The millions who have visited Cypress Gardens or seen its glory on film join in a national salute to this 60-year milestone.

In the six decades since the founding of Cypress Gardens, the attractions industry in Florida has flourished. Through decades of growth and change, Cypress Gardens retains a special place in Florida's tourism legacy.

These gardens reflect the natural wonderment of Florida, the ingenuity of Dick Pope and the never-ending appeal of quality family entertainment.●

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, as a member of the National Advisory Board of a special outreach program called Christmas in April, I am extremely proud to speak to you today about a tremendously generous group of people who deliver Christmas spirit to low-income families during the spring.

With the support of honorary chairs, NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, his wife Chan, along with Arizona first lady Ann Symington, Christmas in April, the Nation's largest volunteer home rehabilitation initiative, kicks off its 1996 campaign by rebuilding the homes of two families in Phoenix's Hermosa neighborhood during Super Bowl weekend.

The focus of this charity is rebuilding and repairing the homes of low-income, elderly, and disabled Americans to help provide warmth, safety, and independence to families in need.

Many needy homeowners will receive this assistance in April 1996, when an army of about 140,000 caring volunteers will arrive on the doorsteps of about 4,200 homeowners in 430 cities and towns across the country.

Thanks to the hard work of these volunteers, Christmas in April has expanded to 160 local affiliates in 44